

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Sub C1

Claims 1-17 (Canceled)

18. (Currently amended) A method of manufacturing a countertop assembly comprising the steps of:

providing a horizontal deck having an upper and a lower surface and an elongated vertical edge surface; and

an elongated molded strip having an exposed outer surface defining a non-extrudable shape; and

fixing the elongated molded strip to the elongated vertical edge surface of the horizontal deck.

19. (Currently amended) The method of manufacturing a countertop assembly of claim 18 wherein ~~the elongated molded strip has an exposed outer surface and on~~ said exposed outer surface there is a pattern.

20. (Currently amended) The method of manufacturing a countertop assembly of claim 19 wherein the elongated strip is generally ~~concave~~ convex.

21. (Original) The method of manufacturing a countertop assembly of claim 19 wherein the molded pattern on the outer surface of the elongated molded strip comprises at least one ridge.

22. (Original) The method of manufacturing a counter assembly of claim 19 wherein the molded pattern comprises at least one recess.

23. (Original) The method of manufacturing a countertop assembly of claim 19 wherein the molded pattern on the outer surface of the elongated molded strip comprises a continuous ridge or recess.

24. (Original) The method of manufacturing a countertop assembly of claim 19 wherein the molded pattern on the outer surface of the elongated molded strip comprises a plurality of discrete ridges or recesses.

25. (Original) The method of manufacturing a countertop assembly of claim 24 wherein the elongated molded strip is comprised of a molded pattern on the outer surface of the elongated molded face strip comprises at least one ridge.

26. (Original) The method of manufacturing a countertop assembly of claim 18 wherein the elongated molded strip is comprised of a polymeric material.

27. (Original) The countertop assembly of claim 18 wherein the elongated molded face strip has an inner surface and said face strip is attached to the elongated vertical edge surface of the horizontal deck at said inner surface.

28. (Original) The method of manufacturing a countertop assembly of claim 18 wherein the elongated molded strip is connected to the elongated vertical surface of the horizontal deck by a tongue and groove joint.

29 (Original) The method of manufacturing a countertop assembly of claim 18 wherein a planar protective covering is superimposed on the upper surface of the horizontal deck.

30. (Original) The method of manufacturing a countertop assembly of claim 29 wherein the protective covering is a laminate.

31. (Original) The method of manufacturing a countertop assembly of claim 18 wherein the lower surface of the horizontal deck is vertically superimposed on an elongated build up member having an elongated vertical edge surface which is vertically aligned with the elongated vertical edge surface of the horizontal deck, and the horizontal molded face is superimposed over both the elongated vertical edge surface of the horizontal deck and the elongated vertical edge surface of the elongated build up member.

32. (Original) The method of manufacturing a countertop assembly of claim 31 wherein a planar protective covering is superimposed on the upper surface of the horizontal deck.

33. (Original) The method of manufacturing a countertop assembly of claim 32 wherein the protective covering is a laminate.

34. (Original) The method of manufacturing a countertop assembly of claim 33 wherein the planar protective covering has an elongated front vertical edge surface which is vertically aligned with the elongated front vertical edge surface of the horizontal deck and the build up member.

35. (New) The method of claim 18 wherein the outer surface defines at least first and second three-dimensional patterns which are distinct from one another; the first pattern being superimposed over a portion of the second pattern.

36. (New) The method of claim 19 wherein the elongated molded strip has a longitudinal length in the elongated direction of the strip and wherein on the exposed outer surface there is a repeated pattern along the longitudinal length.

37. (New) The method of claim 21 wherein the at least one ridge is transverse to the elongated direction of the strip.

38. (New) The method of claim 22 wherein the at least one recess is transverse to the elongated direction of the strip.

39. (New) The method of claim 29 wherein the elongated molded strip has a rear surface fixed to the elongated vertical edge surface of the horizontal deck and an upper edge projecting above the upper surface of the horizontal deck adjacent thereto; wherein the planar protective coating overhangs the horizontal deck elongated vertical edge surface to form an overhang disposed above the upper edge of the elongated molded strip; and wherein the method further includes the steps of:

cutting the overhang to form a vertical edge of the planar protective coating which is aligned with the vertical edge of the horizontal deck; and

positioning the protective coating vertical edge behind the elongated molded strip adjacent the rear surface thereof.

40. (New) A method of manufacturing a countertop assembly comprising the steps of:

providing a horizontal deck having an upper and a lower surface and an elongated vertical edge surface;

providing an elongated molded strip having an exposed outer surface defining at least one of a ridge and a recess transverse to the elongated direction of the strip; and

fixing the elongated molded strip to the elongated vertical edge surface of the horizontal deck.

41. (New) The method of claim 40 wherein the outer surface defines a pattern which repeats at least once in the elongated direction of the strip.

42. (New) The method of claim 40 wherein the outer surface defines at least first and second three-dimensional patterns which are distinct from one another.

43. (New) The method of claim 42 wherein the first pattern is superimposed over a portion of the second pattern.

44. (New) The method of claim 40 wherein a planar protective covering is superimposed on the upper surface of the horizontal deck; wherein the elongated molded strip has a rear surface fixed to the elongated vertical edge surface of the horizontal deck and an upper edge projecting above the upper surface of the horizontal deck adjacent thereto; wherein the planar protective coating overhangs the horizontal deck elongated vertical edge surface to form an overhang disposed above the upper edge of the elongated molded strip; and wherein the method further includes the steps of:

cutting the overhang to form a vertical edge of the planar protective coating which is aligned with the vertical edge of the horizontal deck; and

positioning the protective coating vertical edge behind the elongated molded strip adjacent the rear surface thereof.

45. (New) A method of manufacturing a countertop assembly comprising the steps of:

batch cast molding an elongated strip;

providing a horizontal deck having an upper and a lower surface and an elongated vertical edge surface; and

fixing the elongated molded strip to the elongated vertical edge surface of the horizontal deck.

46. (New) The method of claim 45 wherein the elongated molded strip has an exposed outer surface defining at least one of a ridge and a recess transverse to the elongated direction of the strip.

47. (New) The method of claim 45 wherein the elongated molded strip has an exposed outer surface defining a pattern.

48. (New) The method of claim 47 wherein the elongated molded strip has a longitudinal length in the elongated direction of the strip and wherein the exposed outer surface defines a repeated pattern along the longitudinal length.

49. (New) The method of claim 47 wherein the pattern includes at least one ridge transverse to the elongated direction of the strip.

50. (New) The method of claim 47 wherein the pattern includes at least one recess transverse to the elongated direction of the strip.

51. (New) The method of claim 45 wherein the molded strip has an exposed outer surface defining at least first and second three-dimensional patterns which are distinct from one another; the first pattern being superimposed over a portion of the second pattern.

52. (New) The method of claim 45 wherein a planar protective covering is superimposed on the upper surface of the horizontal deck; wherein the elongated molded strip has a rear surface fixed to the elongated vertical edge surface of the horizontal deck and an upper edge projecting above the upper surface of the horizontal deck adjacent thereto; wherein the planar protective coating overhangs the horizontal deck elongated vertical edge surface to form an overhang disposed above the upper edge of the elongated molded strip; and wherein the method further includes the steps of:

cutting the overhang to form a vertical edge of the planar protective coating which is aligned with the vertical edge of the horizontal deck; and

positioning the protective coating vertical edge behind the elongated molded strip adjacent the rear surface thereof.